

balance the budget by 2012, while providing for our national security and making tax relief permanent.

My Budget proposes to keep non-security discretionary spending below inflation for the next five years. My Budget also reforms projects and spending that don't get the job done. We need lawmakers' support to help us accomplish this goal—including reforms that will improve the Congressional budget process.

To bolster public confidence in the Government's ability to manage taxpayers' money successfully, Congress should adopt earmark reform. The earmark process should be made more transparent, ending the practice of concealing earmarks in so-called report language never included in legislation. The number and cost of earmarks should be cut by at least half by the end of this session. I have also called on Congress to adopt the legislative line-item veto, which gives the Legislative and Executive Branches a tool to help eliminate wasteful spending. These common-sense reforms will help prevent billions of taxpayers' dollars from being spent on unnecessary and unjustified projects.

To keep this economy strong we must take on the challenge of entitlements. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are commitments of conscience, and so it is our duty to keep them permanently sound. If we do not address this challenge, we will one day leave our children with three bad options: huge tax increases, huge deficits, or huge and immediate cuts in benefits.

In the short term, my Budget works to slow the rate of growth of these programs, saving \$96 billion over five years. This Administration is also actively working with Congress to comprehensively reform and improve these vital programs so they will be strong for the next generations of Americans.

I am optimistic about the future of our country. We are an entrepreneurial and hard-working Nation. And while we face great challenges, we enjoy great opportunities. This Budget reflects our highest priorities while reducing the deficit and achieving a balanced budget by 2012. I am confident that this approach will help make our country more secure and more prosperous.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 2007.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and referred as indicated:

S. 153. A bill to provide for the monitoring of the long-term medical health of firefighters who responded to emergencies in certain disaster areas and for the treatment of such firefighters; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-580. A communication from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the HOPE VI program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-581. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska natural gas pipeline and describing any issue impeding that progress; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-582. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corrections and Updates to Technical Guidelines for Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting" (RIN1901-AB23) received on January 31, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-583. A communication from the Acting Officer, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Texas Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan" (Docket No. TX-056-FOR) received on February 1, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-584. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report relative to a document recently issued by the Agency related to its regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-585. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Dakota State University v. United States, 255 F.3d 599 (8th Cir. 2001), nonacq., 2001-2 C.B. xv" (Action on Decision: AOD 2007-6) received on January 31, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-586. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice on Closing Agreements for Certain Life Insurance and Annuity Contracts that Fail to Meet the Requirements of Sections 817(h), 7702 and 7702A" (Notice 2007-15) received on January 31, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-587. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Rev. Proc. 2001-42" (Rev. Proc. 2007-19) received on January 31, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-588. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diversification of Investments in Certain Defined Contribution Plans—Section 901 of Pension Protection Act" (Notice 2006-107) received on January 31, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the actions of departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation from January 1 to December 31, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-590. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program Report for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-591. A communication from the Secretary of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 488. A bill to revise the boundary of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 489. A bill to improve efficiency in the Federal Government through the use of green buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 490. A bill to provide for the return of the Fresnel Lens to the lantern room atop Presque Isle Light Station Lighthouse, Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. COBURN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 69. A resolution recognizing the African-American spiritual as a national treasure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 70. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Commander of Multinational Forces-Iraq and all United States personnel under his command should receive from Congress the full support necessary to carry out the United States mission in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. Res. 71. A resolution expressing support for the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Washington